

HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 11.4.4

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday one week prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday one day prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: April 6, 2021

Subject: Regional and Rural Transit

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council request a staff report outlining options regarding:

- 1) Moving funding of the ferry system to the Local Transit Tax from the Regional Transportation Tax;
- 2) Funding cooperative rural transit from the Regional Transportation Tax;
- 3) Establishing a new Regional Transportation Tax boundary to apply to those within 3kms of a Regional Express stop, 1km of a conventional or rural bus stop, or within a Rural Transit Funded service area, and,
- 4) Expanding the Rural Transit Funding Program to include share in capital funding.

Reason:

Transit taxes currently fall within two area rates:

- the "regional transportation rate" covers services such as the MetroLink, MetroX, and ferries. However, the cost for these regional services is shared by almost all taxpayers. The "local transit rate" could be used much more effectively to distribute service costs more equitably, rather than for only those within one kilometre of a conventional or community transit stop.

The current rural transit funding program is not adequate, as it only covers operations costs for organizations that rely on volunteer hours to function. The true costs of operations is not known, since cooperative transit provides significant in-kind contributions. HRM's Rural Transit Funding program does not include capital funding, which results in challenges for non-profits purchasing new vehicles to enhance fleet diversity. Typically, District Capital Funds are expected to cover shortfall of rural transit capital costs, which is not an effective use of these funds.

Outcome Sought:

More equitable tax scheme for regional transportation to support increased rural transit service costs.

*Councillor
Pam Lovelace*

*District
13*